



LAKESHIA MYERS
Wisconsin State Representative • 12th Assembly District

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FOR IMMEDIATE ADVISORY:
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Representative LaKeshia Myers Introduces Bill Aimed at Increasing the Number of DATCP Dog Inspectors

MADISON – Representative LaKeshia Myers (D-Milwaukee) introduced legislation today that would increase the number of inspectors for the Department of Agriculture, Trade, & Consumer Protection (DATCP) Dog Sellers Program. Currently, the agency employs only three inspectors who are assigned to the Dog Sellers Program which has about three hundred registered dog sellers and close to one hundred fifty animal shelters/rescue groups.

This bill is the result of a compromise effort by legislators, the Wisconsin Humane Society, American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), and the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC).

Myers said, “I remain steadfast in my commitment to ensure animals are treated with humanity in the state of Wisconsin. While our state’s anti-puppy mill legislation is over a decade old, the responsibility of upholding the standards of care for dogs rests with just three civil servants who are responsible for inspections in all seventy-two counties; this is illogical and an untenable task. If we are truly interested in making sure puppy mills cease to exist in the state of Wisconsin, we must increase the number of DATCP inspectors. This legislation forces us to put our money where our mouths are by investing the necessary resources in actively monitoring this program and ensuring animals are free from inhumane treatment.”

This legislation is co-sponsored by State Senator Jeff Smith (D-Eau Claire) and has been championed by the Wisconsin Humane Society and the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council.

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